

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet which includes Fig. 1 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In FIG. 1, the drawing is designated as --Prior Art--.

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 8, and 12 are amended to clarify the invention, and dependent claims 5, 9, and 11 are amended for consistency with the base claims. Claims 13-15 are cancelled.

The amendments to the independent claims remove the limitations of each device requesting a bitstream from the other device. Thus, the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 USC §112 are thought to be moot. Support for the amendments to the independent claims may be found in paragraphs 27-28, as well as in FIGs. 2 and 3. Claims 1-12 remain for consideration and are thought to be allowable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 8 and 12 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is respectfully traversed. However, the rejection is now moot in view of the amendments to the claims.

The Office Action does not establish that claims 1-15 are unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over "Chang" (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,611 to Chang) in view of "Kato" (U.S. Patent No. 6,754,723 to Kato). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

In amended claim 1, both the host and peripheral devices are configurable and have PLDs. In addition, the PLD of the peripheral device provides a bitstream to the PLD of a host device if the host device does not have the required bitstream. Furthermore, the claimed peripheral device stores a plurality of bitstreams and each of the bitstreams in the peripheral device implements a driver of the peripheral device. Neither Chang nor Kato appears to suggest all of these limitations.

In the present invention, both the host device and the peripheral device have pluralities of bitstreams available for configuring PLDs. Kato's printer/host appears to have multiple firmware versions. However, Kato's mailbox/peripheral 200 does not appear to store a plurality of firmware versions. Furthermore, in Kato's system, the printer/host device apparently provides the firmware to the peripheral device. The claims of the present invention make clear that the host may provide its own bitstream or receive a bitstream from the peripheral device to be driven. Thus, the limitations of the claims are not shown to be suggested by the Chang-Kato combination.

The alleged motivation for combining Kato with Chang is unsupported by evidence and improper. Both Chang and Kato apparently address the problem of interoperability of electronic devices. No evidence is presented that shows how Chang's described approach is deficient, and no evidence is presented to explain how Kato's teachings would remedy any of these deficiencies. The alleged motivation simply recites some generalized objectives of Kato but does not explain how these objective relate to the any specific teaching in Chang. Therefore, the alleged motivation is improper.

Independent method claims 8 and 12 include similar limitations and are not shown to be unpatentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

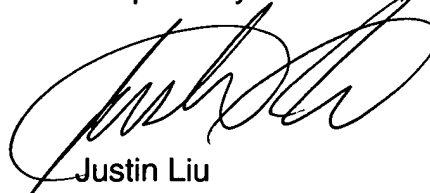
Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and claims 9-11 depend from claim 8. Thus, the Office Action does not show that claims 2-7 and 9-11 are unpatentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

The rejection of claims 1-15 should be withdrawn because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Amendments and Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

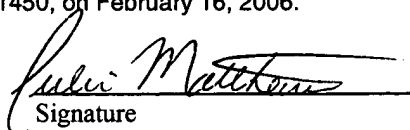
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on February 16, 2006.

Julie Matthews
Name


Signature